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NIE contribution system

26 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR/INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Research Basis for National Estimates

1. We have considered from several angles the proposition outlined in your memorandum of 18 January and conclude that it would be unwise to inaugurate it.
2. We do not believe it is justifiable to ask O/NE or anybody else to do the primary and elemental job of an inquiring student—that of putting together a critical and descriptive bibliography for him.
3. We do not feel that this should be required of any contributor to an NIE. Anything less, however, runs the serious risk of omitting the very references which one of the IAC representatives might regard as crucial. For example, we, or one of the contributors, might omit a title purposely because in our opinion it lacked objectivity or was irrelevant. This might be precisely the document one of the representatives would place great store in. We would then be accused of trying to slant our position by withholding important references.
4. The general business of multiplying paper work of all for the benefit of one does not seem prudent.
5. The exercise seems unnecessary even from the viewpoint of the requester—the Joint Staff representative. Each representative now gets copies of all contributions. These contributions presumably are findings based on substantial evidence and considered opinion. Any specific question which any representative has can and should be taken up directly with the contributor well before an O/NE draft is circulated. We do it all the time.

CHERMAN KURT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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